

The journey of a Muslim believer (soul) after death – Islamic beliefs according to hadith

Everyone has to die one day. Allah says in the Quran:

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَنَبْلُوكُم بِالشَّرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فِتْنَةً وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾

“Everyone is going to taste death, and We shall make a trial of you with evil and with good, and to Us you will be returned.” Quran ([Surah Al-Anbiya:21](#))

However, [the return of every soul to the afterlife shall depend on its state of righteousness in this world](#). To the pious believers, it will be said (as stated in the [Quran](#)):

يَأْتِيهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ﴿٢٧﴾
أَرْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً ﴿٢٨﴾
فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي ﴿٢٩﴾
وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي ﴿٣٠﴾
سورة الفجر

27. (It will be said to the pious): “O (you) the one in (complete) rest and satisfaction!.

28. “Come back to your Lord well-pleased (yourself) and well-pleasing (unto Him)!.

29. “Enter you then among My (honored) slaves,.

30. “And enter you My Paradise!”

Ibn Abi Hatim recorded from Ibn `Abbas concerning Allah’s statement in verses 27 and 28 above that this verse was revealed while [Abu Bakr](#) was sitting (with the Prophet). So

he said, 'O Messenger of **Allah!** There is nothing better than this!' The Prophet then replied,

«أَمَّا إِنَّهُ سَيُقَالُ لَكَ هَذَا»

(This will indeed be said to you.)”

In another detailed **hadith** stated below, the Messenger of Allah (SAW) describes the details of how a soul of a believing and righteous person is welcomed in the next world.

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Upon the authority of al-Bara' ibn `Aazib who said: We went out with the Prophet (S) to a burial of a man from the Ansaar (original inhabitants of Madina) until we arrived at the **grave** and he still had not been placed in the slot of the grave.

Then the Messenger of Allah (S) sat down and we sat around him. You would have thought that birds were upon our heads from our silence and in the hand of the Messenger of Allah (S) was a stick which he was poking the ground with. Then he started looking at the sky and looking at the earth and looking up down three times. Then he said to us: “**Ask Allah for refuge from the torment of the grave**“, he repeated this command two or three times. Then he said O Allah I seek refuge in you from the torment of the grave (three times). He then said,

*‘When the believer is about to depart from this world and go forward into the Next World, angels with faces as bright as the sun descend from the heavens and sit around him in throngs stretching as far as the eye can see. Then the Angel of Death comes and sits at his head and says, “**Good soul, come out to forgiveness and pleasure from Allah!**” Then his soul emerges like a drop of water flows from a water-skin and the angel takes hold of it. When he has grasped it, the other angels do not leave it in his hand even for the twinkling of an eye. They take it and place it in a perfumed shroud and a fragrance issues from it like the sweetest scent of musk found on the face on the earth.*

*‘Then they bear it upwards and whenever they take it past a company of angels, they ask, “Who is this good soul?” and the angels with the soul reply, “So-and-so the son of so-and-so,” using the best names by which people used to call him in this world. They bring him to the lowest heaven and ask for the gate to be opened for him. It is opened for him and angels who are near Allah from each of the heavens accompany him to the subsequent heaven until he reaches to the heaven where Allah the Great is. Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, says, ‘Register the book of My slave in **‘Illiyun** and take him back to earth. I created them from it and I return them to it and I will bring them forth from it again.’*

*‘His soul is then returned to his body and two angels come to him. They make him sit up and say to him, “**Who is your Lord?**” He replies, “My Lord is Allah.” They ask him, “**What is your religion?**” He replies, “My religion is Islam.” They ask him, “**Who is this man who was sent among you?**” He replies, “The Messenger of Allah.” They ask him, “**How did you come to know these things?**” He replies, “**I read the Book of Allah, believed it, and declared it to be true.**” Then a Voice from on high declares,*

“My slave has spoken the truth, so spread out carpets from the Garden for him and open a gate of the Garden for him!” Then some of its fragrance and perfume comes to him, his grave is expanded for him as far as the eye can see, and a man with beautiful garments and a fragrant scent comes to him and says, “Rejoice in what delights you for this is the day which you were promised.” He asks, “Who are you? Yours is a face which presages good.” He replies, “I am your good actions.” Then he (the soul) says, “O Lord, let the Last Hour come soon so that I may rejoin my family and my property!”

The above is part of a long hadith that continues to describe the opposite that happens with the wrongdoers in this world with whom Allah is not happy because they don't believe in the principles of Tawhid and refute His commands.

Regarding the *illiyyun* described in the hadith where Allah says, ‘Register the book of My slave in ‘**illiyyun** and take him back to earth. I created them from it (earth) and I return them to it and I will bring them forth from it again’, the Quran describes it in these verses:



19. And what will make you know what ‘illiyyun is?.

20. A Register inscribed,.

21. To which bear witness those nearest (to Allah, i.e. the angels)

Quran Verses on Death

The following Quran verses clarified about raising up after death

Doubts about raising up after death?

وَيَقُولُ الْإِنْسَنُ إِذْ مَاتَ لَسَوْفَ أُخْرَجُ حَيًّا ۚ
أَوَلَا يَذْكُرُ الْإِنْسَنُ أَنَا خَلَقْنَاهُ مِن قَبْلُ
وَلَمْ يَكُ شَيْئًا ۚ

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And man (the disbeliever) says: "When I am dead, shall I then be raised up alive?" (66)
Does not man remember that We created him before, while he was nothing? (67) -- Surah Maryam

The following Quran verses are for believers at time of death.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ
عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا
وَأَبشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

**Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah (Alone),"
and then they stay firm, on them the angels will
descend (at the time of their death) (saying): "Fear
not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of
Paradise which you have been promised! Quran (41:30)**

[Click here to download the book: The Soul's Journey After Death](#)

The following [verses](#) are for those who die in the state of wrong doing or as [pious](#) people.

YOUR CHOICE!

Death of the wrong doers

الَّذِينَ تُوَفَّقَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ فَأَلْقَوْا
السَّلَامَ مَا كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ مِنْ سُوءٍ بَلَىٰ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٢٨﴾ سورة النحل

"Those whose lives the angels take while they are doing wrong to themselves." Then, they will make (false) submission (saying): "We used not to do any evil." (The angels will reply): "Yes! Truly, Allah is All-Knower of what you used to do."

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Death of the pious

الَّذِينَ تُوَفَّقَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ طَيِّبِينَ يَقُولُونَ سَلَامٌ
عَلَيْكُمْ أَذْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

Those whose lives the angels take while they are in a pious state (i.e. pure from all evil, and worshipping none but Allah Alone) saying (to them): Salamun 'Alaikum (peace be on you) enter you Paradise, because of that (the good) which you used to do (in the world)." سورة النحل

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